

An open Bible lies on a wooden surface, its pages filled with text. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with golden light breaking through dark, textured clouds. A few birds are seen flying in the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Chronological Bible Study

Week 20:

History and Prophecy

1 Kings 20-22

2 Kings 1-12

2 Chronicles 17-22

Praying Like Elijah

[Video Link](#)





Introductions

What is something that is on your bucket list?

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

Ahab Wars with Damascus

The Alliance of Judah and Israel

Holy War Against the Transjordan Coalition

The Fall of the Omri Dynasty of Israel

Elisha

Athaliah Seizes Judah's throne

The Aramaeans

[Video Link](#)





Damascus is the capital of Syria.

Samaria is the capital of Israel.

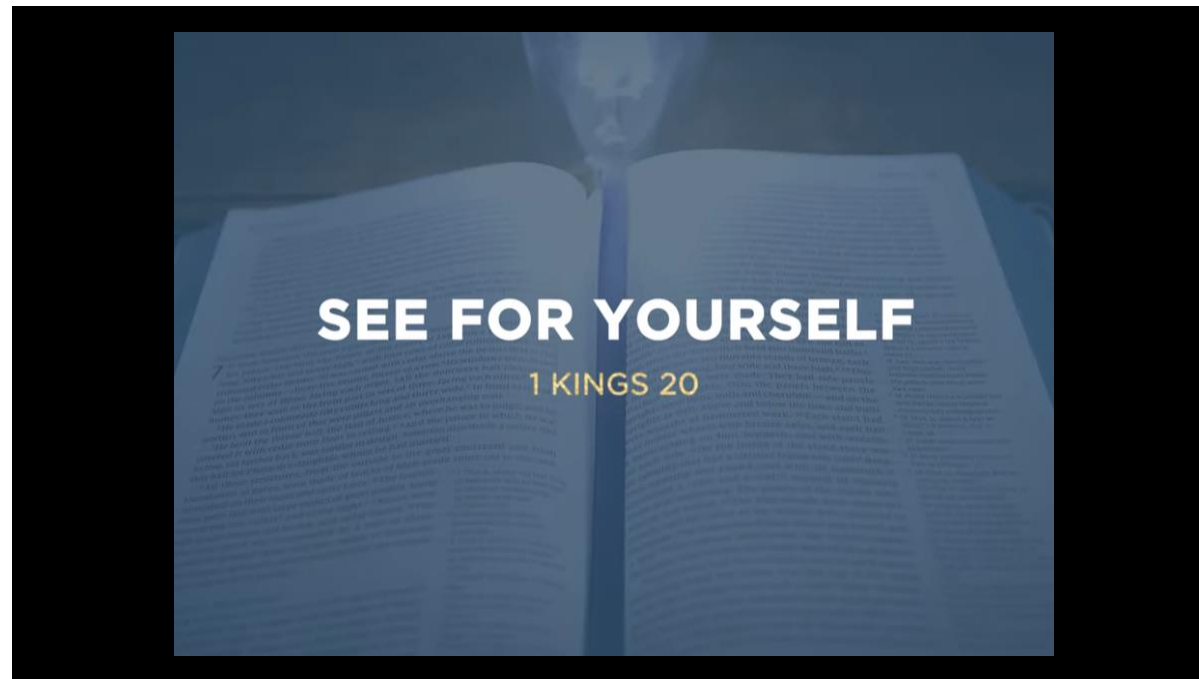
Ben-Hadad Attacks Samaria

- Unclear which Ben-Hadad the Bible refers to in 1 Kings 20 but there were multiple battles.
- Ben-Hadad's numerous alliances was rare in the ancient Near East.
- Israel fought with Ben-Hadad at Qarqar (853 BC) against the Assyrians
- There was an on-going trade war between Israel and Phoenicia. The marriage of Jezebel and Ahab limited Aram's access to Mediterranean ports.
- Ben-Hadad tried to isolate Samaria



War with Aram-Assyria

[Video Link](#)





The Prophets and Ahab

- Ahab defeats Ben-Hadad twice after God reassures and guides him through prophets.
- Through the victories God teaches Ahab that the LORD is more powerful than Baal.
- Not killing Ben-Hadad is seen by the prophets as disobeying God.
- Ahab learns that YAHWEH, not Baal, is the powerful one true living God.



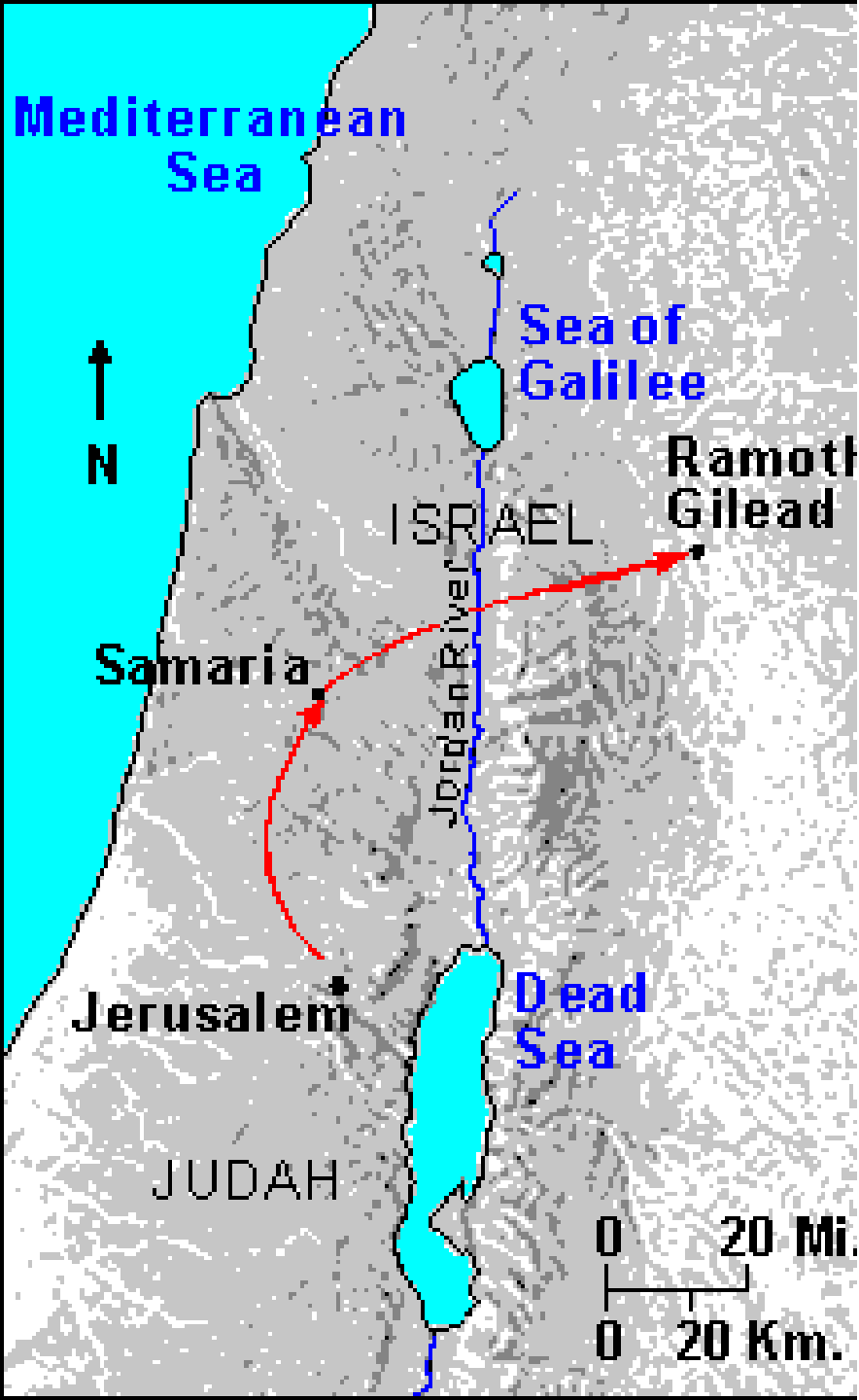
Discussion

- Reflect on the false prophets in this story. How can we discern the truth amidst falsehoods in our lives?
- How can the account of Micaiah's courage in proclaiming the truth inspire us to stand firm in our convictions, especially when they go against popular opinion?

Naboth's Vineyard

- Further demonstrates Ahab's injustice
- Different notions of property: inheritance vs. possession
- It's a theological not mere economic dispute.





Alliance Between Judah and Israel

- Jehoshaphat: King of Judah
- Ahab: King of Israel
- Israel wants support in retaking Ramoth Gilead from Aram
- Seek advice from the prophets, but Jehoshaphat leery of Ahab's prophets.
- Micaiah is a prophet that is speaking for YAHWEH not Ahab.
- Ahab listens to the lie rather than the truth of YAHWEH
- Ahab killed in the battle at Ramoth Gilead, validating Micaiah as an authentic prophet.

Ahab's Palace

[Video Link](#)



Jehoshaphat

- Reigned for 25 years (872-848 BC) , coinciding with Omri's dynasty in the Northern Kingdom.
- One of the few kings who remained faithful to YAHWEH.
- Appointed Levite judges to help settle disputes.
- Engaged in battles from an Eastern coalition after loss at Ramoth Gilead. He sought God's support in these battles.
- Defeats Moab and Ammon.
- Buried with his ancestors in the City of David.





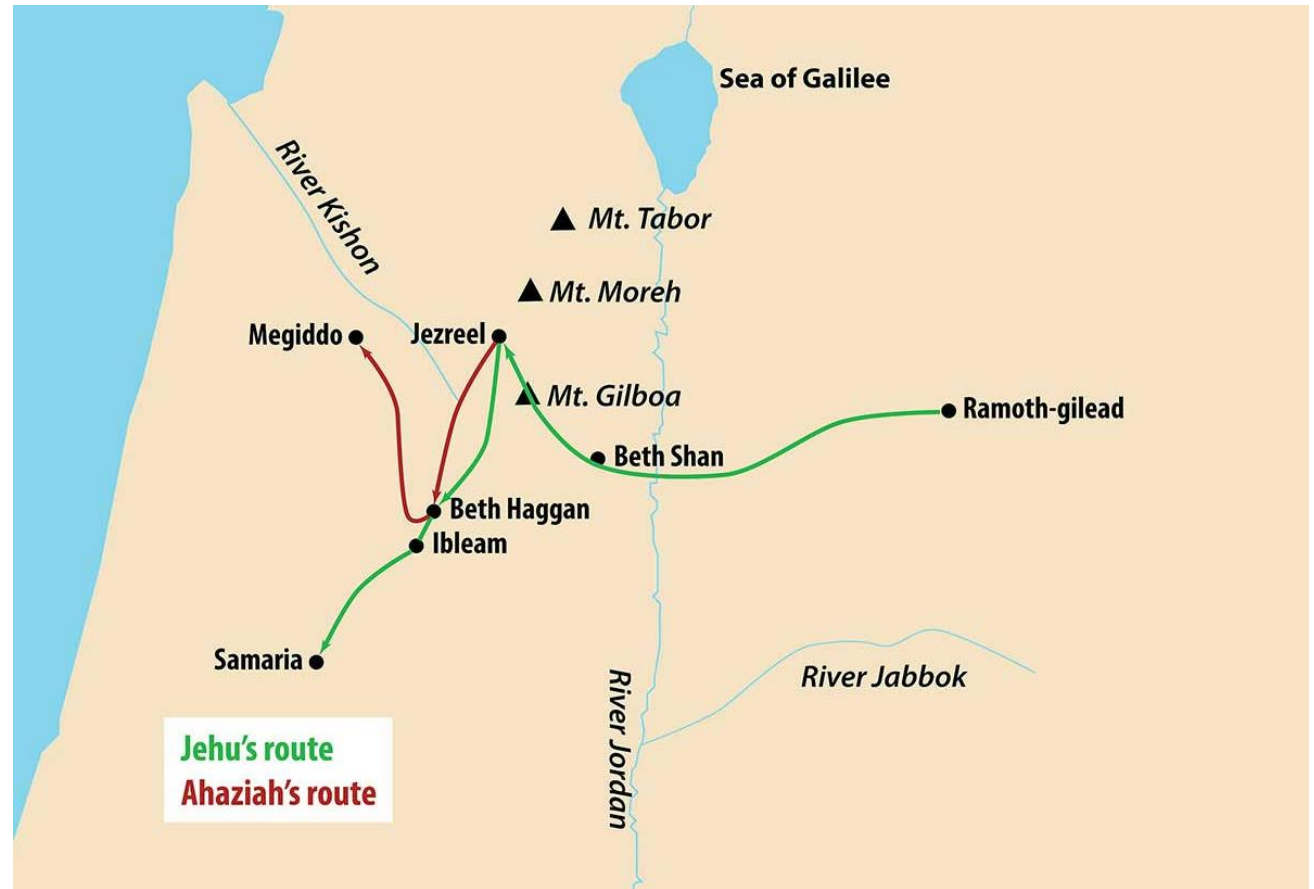
Ahaziah, King of Israel

- Ahab's son Ahaziah following Ahab's death
- Ahaziah reigned 2 years and did evil
- The Moabites revolted against him.

- He died, as Elijah prophesied, because he did not follow YAHWEH
- He was succeeded by Joram

Revolution of Jehu

- Attempt to stop Baal worship.
- Resulted in the end of the Omri dynasty
- Jezebel dies much as Elijah had prophesied.
- Ahaziah, king of Judah killed in the revolution resulting in rule by Ahab and Jezebel's daughter Athaliah



Kings versus Prophets

- The book of Kings written to explain why the people are in exile.
- The kings and people have broken covenant with God.
- God was the real authority, not the kings.
- The prophets counterbalance the kings. For every king there is an opposing prophet or group of prophets.
- God's prophetic word ultimately determines Israel's history.

King	Opposing Prophet	Reference
Rehoboam	Ahijah Shemaiah	1 KI 11 1 KI 12
Jeroboam	Ahijah	1 KI 13-14
Ahab	Elijah	1 KI 17-18
Jehu	Elisha	1 KI 17-2 KI 9
Hezekiah	Isaiah	2 KI 18-20
Josiah	Hulday	2 KI 22

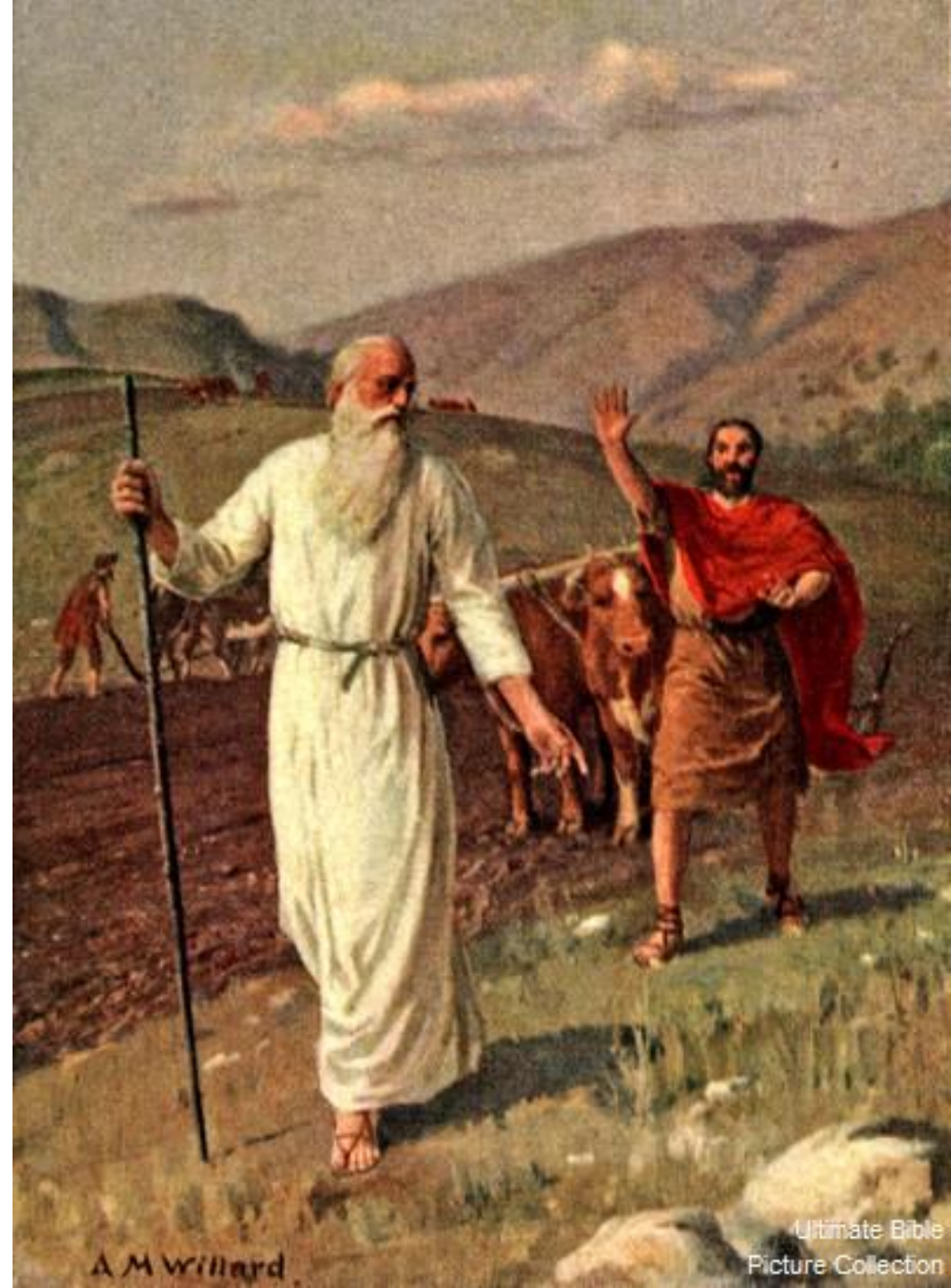
Elisha the Prophet

[Video Link](#)



The Stories of Elijah and Elisha

- Legendary, popular accounts among the common people
- Accent what appears to be miraculous and supernatural
- Elijah depicted as a second Moses
- Elisha depicted as typical folk story
- Elisha learned from yet differed from Elijah



Elijah Taken Up to Heaven

- Elijah's prophetic ministry ends with a divine escort from earth to heaven.
- Elijah urges Elisha to remain behind but Elisha witnesses the miracle and receives a double portion of Elijah's spirit.
- Gilgal likely to be located north of Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim.
- God raises up Elisha to continue Elijah's ministry.





Parting water of Jordan River



Healing water source of Jericho



Protection by two bears



*Filling valley with ditches.
Water for Israel Army over
Moabites*



*Filling the widow's
oil pot*



*Prophecy of Shunammite
woman to have a son*



*Resurrection of
Shunammite's child*



*Purifying the
poison soup*



Multiplication of bread



Healing of Naaman



*Cursing Gehazi
with leprosy*



Floating axe head

The Miracles of Elisha

Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist, and Jesus

- Matthew says John the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy that Elijah would come again and that Jesus is the new Elisha.
- John dressed like Elijah
- Both John and Elijah faced a hostile political power
- Elisha and Jesus' ministries both start at the Jordan river
- The miracles of Jesus are the same as the miracles of Elisha.





Elijah and Moses

Kings presents parallels between Elijah and Moses

- Moses experiences God on a mountain and idolatry when he came down
- God provided food and water for Israel in the wilderness just as he provided Elijah with food and drink to sustain him.
- Both encounter God at Sinai
- Elijah takes refuge in a cave; Moses found refuge in the cleft of a rock
- Both avoid looking at God
- Both renewed by encountering God
- God appointed prophets to help each when they had too much



Readings: Loving Pursuit of the Unfaithful

- 2 Kings 13:1-14:29
- 2 Chronicles 22:10-25:28
- Jonah
- Amos
- Hosea

Extra: The Origins of Hebrew

[Video Link](#)



Closing Song

[Video Link](#)



We continue to read the history of Israel and Judah. God repeatedly exhibited his power and urged repentance, while the people failed to uphold their covenant promises. Kings defiantly challenged God by word and deed. God used prophets to call his people and their leaders back to a covenant relationship with himself. Elijah and Elisha were the two greatest prophets of the period, both of whom ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel. The Chronicler emphasized that God’s blessing resulted from obedience to the Mosaic covenant but that his judgment followed disobedience. If the people would humbly repent, God promised to restore them.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 547-577)

Day 1: 1 KI 20:1 – 22:50
 Day 2: 2 CH 17:1-20:37
 Day 3: 1 KI 22:51-53; 2 KI 1:1-18
 Day 4: 2 KI 2:1-4:44
 Day 5: 2 KI 5:1-8:15
 Day 6: 2 KI 8:16-10:36
 Day 7: 2 CH 21:1-22:9;
 2 KI 11:1-12:21

Outline

Wars with Syria [Day 1]
 Alliance of Judah and Israel [Day 1]
 Ahab and Jehoshaphat [Day 2]
 Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah of Israel [Day 3]
 Elisha in Israel [Day 4-5]
 Israel and Judah [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Ahab	Naboth
Jezebel	Ahaziah (I)
Jehoshaphat	Jehoram
Elijah	Elisha
Naaman	Hazael
Jehu	Athaliah
Joash	Jehoram
Ahaziah (J)	Athaliah

Key Locations

Syria
 Samaria
 Ramoth Gilead
 Moab

Key Terms

Kingship
 Covenant
 Division
 Rebellion
 Temple
 Peace
 Reform
 Prayer
 Prophecy

Key Verses

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing. [1 KI 18:21]

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [2 CH 7:14]

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. [2 CH 16:9]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki20: Ben-hadad attacked Samaria. Israel defeated the Arameans twice. Ahab made a treaty with Ben-hadad so a prophet spoke against him.

1Ki21: Naboth would not sell his vineyard, so Jezebel had him killed. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel."

1Ki22: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch17: Jehoshaphat became king and was devoted to the LORD. He sent his officials to teach the law. He grew greater and built fortresses.

2Ch18: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch19: Jehoshaphat returned to Jerusalem. He appointed judges and said to them, "Judge carefully, for with the LORD there is no injustice."

2Ch20: An army came against Jehoshaphat so he sought the LORD. Jahaziel said, "The battle is not yours but God's." The LORD set ambushes.

2Ki1: Ahaziah consulted Baal-zebub. Elijah said that he would die. Ahaziah sent men to Elijah but they were consumed by fire. Ahaziah died.

2Ki2: Elisha followed Elijah. A chariot of fire appeared and Elijah went up to heaven. Elisha took Elijah's mantle and divided the waters.

2Ki3: Israel, Judah and Edom went to fight Moab. Elisha said, "The LORD will send water and give you Moab." The Moabites were defeated.

2Ki4: Elisha told a Shunammite woman that she would have a son. The child died but Elisha revived him. Elisha cleansed the food at Gilgal.

2Ki5: Naaman of Aram was a leper. Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan and he was healed. Gehazi asked for a gift and became leprous.

2Ki6: The king of Aram sent an army to capture Elisha but the LORD blinded them. Ben-hadad besieged Samaria and there was a great famine.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki7: Elisha prophesied an end to the famine. Four lepers went and found that the Arameans had fled. The people plundered the Aramean camp.

2Ki8: Elisha told Hazael that he would rule Aram. Hazael killed Ben-hadad. Jehoram ruled Judah and did evil. Ahaziah ruled and did evil.

2Ki9: Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu. Jehu killed Joram and Ahaziah. Eunuchs threw Jezebel out of the window and dogs ate her body.

2Ki10: Jehu sent a letter and had Ahab's sons killed. He killed Ahaziah's brothers and all the worshippers of Baal. Hazael defeated Israel.

2Chr21: Jehoram ruled and did evil. Elijah wrote saying, "The LORD will send a plague." The LORD struck Jehoram with a disease and he died.

2Ch22: The people made Ahaziah king. He did evil and was killed by Jehu. Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehoshabeath hid Joash.

2Ki11: Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehosheba hid Joash. Jehoiada had the army proclaim Joash as king and put Athaliah to death.

2Ki12: Joash ruled in Jerusalem and did what was right. The priests collected money to repair the temple. Joash was killed by his servants.

Teachings About God

- Because Israel's God is the one true LORD of all, he can be worshipped properly at the one place that he has designated – the temple in Jerusalem.
- God will not tolerate the worship of rival deities. God values faithfulness above all else.
- God educates his people through discipline.

Teachings About Humanity

- In 1 and 2 Kings, humanity is evaluated by evaluating the kings' lives.
- 2 Chronicles begins with the building of the temple in Jerusalem and ends with its destruction. The temple was sometimes neglected and sometimes refurbished, but it was not always the most important building in Israel.
- The worth of a king is determined only by whether they did right or evil in the sight of the Lord.

Teachings About Salvation

- Salvation is entirely due to God's sovereign work.
- God's prophets in 2 Kings called people to repent for their salvation and to worship God alone.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- The spirit is present to inspire God's prophets.
- 2 Kings presents prophets God works through to perform mighty acts. Jesus is described as a "prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the people."

Literary Genres/Techniques

- 1 & 2 Kings is a selective account written in Hebrew. The author was interested in chronology.
- 2 Chronicles describes the same time period as 1 and 2 Kings, but concentrates only on the kings of Judah. It is an extremely selective account and is written in Hebrew.
- 2 Chronicles connects the temple and the kingship by noting kings who initiated repairs to the temple, thus initiating reform and renewal.

Author/Date of Writing

- 1 and 2 Kings author and date unknown. Perhaps written c 560 BC by Jeremiah. The perspective is that of the Babylonian exile.
- 1 and 2 Chronicles author and date unknown. Perhaps written c 450 BC by Ezra. The audience is thought to be the Israelites in Jerusalem after they returned from exile.

What did I learn about God?

- In 1 KI 22:29-39, Ahab was killed by someone randomly drawing his bow and hitting Ahab. Do you believe that God sovereignly controls all of life's circumstances? Is there human choice? Randomness? Explain.
- In the story of the widow's oil, God used the widow's own limited resources. What resource of yours could God use or has God used, to provide for you?
- Does God still provide miracles today like those described with Elisha in 2 Kings? Have you ever witnessed a miraculous healing? What about unsuccessful prayers for healing?
- Read 2 KI 5: 11-12 where Naaman is angry because the rivers of Damascus should be better than the River Jordan. Since there is only one God, aren't all religions just different ways to God? Or does religion affect the inside heart of a person making them really different? What affect might the outside form of religion have on the heart of a person? How do you know?
- Is the God of 2 Kings more just than merciful or the reverse? In what ways does He demonstrate mercy and how does He balance it with justice? Are the people of Judah collectively punished for the sins of their kings? Is that fair? Are the righteous people rewarded and do they always receive mercy?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In reading about the various kings in this week's readings the candid and sordid stories leave much room for pondering "what if" questions. What do you think would have been different if these kings had done right in the sight of the Lord, or if they had listened to the Lord's prophet? What qualities do the wicked kings have in common? Is it just polytheism and image worship? Or is there more to it than that?
- What impressed you the most about the Shunammite woman who helped Elisha? Her initiative? The way she used her resources? Her desire to serve? Her hospitality? Her focus? Her faith?
- Why do people react instantly to physical threat, yet often seem indifferent to spiritual threat?
- In the story of Naaman being cured of leprosy, why was Naaman reluctant to follow Elisha's instructions? What do you think Naaman's biggest problem was (his leprosy? His temper? His pride? His attitude?) Why do you think Gehazi sought out Naaman after Naaman was healed? How do you feel about the punishment Gehazi received for his actions?
- Are some behaviors (like plunder and killing) fair "in love and war" that would normally be wrong? Are morals justified by circumstances?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is it possible to know that your life is "right in the eyes of the Lord?" Does it matter if you know or not?
- When you are faced with a distressing experience (like the Shunammite woman when she loses her son) where do you generally turn? To family? To friends? To God? To church? Other?
- Based on your view of God, what side do you think God takes in current wars? Do you believe anyone is completely "right" when they use violence?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- What impact might culture at the time of these writings have had on how people "heard" God? They lived in a very violent time period – did that impact why God would command them to do so much killing? How does culture impact our interpretation of Scripture?